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JURY 8/24/71

3RD ADD JURY 212 XXX HE ADDED.

EPSTEIN CLAIMED THREE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CLERK'S OFFICE, INCLUDING TALMACHOFF, WERE PRESENT DURING A MAY 16, 1969, CONFERENCE SO THAT JUDGE WALKER'S VIEWS CONCERNING THE ORIGINAL SIRHAN EXHIBITS WOULD BE CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD.

THE CONFERENCE, EPSTEIN WROTE, MADE IT "DEMONSTRABLY CLEAR" THAT JUDGE WALKER HAD EXPECTED THE "CRITICAL BALLISTICS EVIDENCE IN THE SIRHAN CASE WAS TO BE SPECIALLY PACKAGED TO PRESERVE ITS INTEGRITY."

THE JURY FOREMAN NOTED THAT THE CONFERENCE TOOK PLACE WELL AFTER ALL THE EXHIBITS WERE INTRODUCED INTO EVIDENCE AND HAD THUS COME INTO THE CARE OF THE CLERK'S OFFICE.

"THE COURT'S RECOMMENDATION RELATING TO THE PACKAGING OF THE BALLISTICS EVIDENCE WAS TOTALLY IGNORED BY THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK, DESPITE THE EMPHASIS PLACED UPON THE FRAGILITY OF SUCH EVIDENCE DURING THE COURSE OF THE IN-CHAMBERS CONFERENCE," EPSTEIN WROTE.

THE EXISTENCE OF JUDGE WALKER'S ORDER, WHICH COVERED EVERYONE EXCEPT THE ATTORNEYS OF RECORD IN THE CASE, AND THE DISSEMINATION OF THE ORDER, WERE "DISREGARDED TO A SUBSTANTIAL EXTENT....," THE LETTER SAID.

"SOME OF THE ORIGINAL SIRHAN EXHIBITS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE BULLETS FIRED FROM SIRHAN'S GUN, WERE HANDLED BY UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS," EPSTEIN DECLARED.

NOWHERE IN HIS LETTER DID EPSTEIN NAME ANY OF THE UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS.

(MORE)

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